



Southwest Strategy

Members include the States and Tribes of Arizona and New Mexico, the Departments of Defense, Interior and Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency

435 Montañó NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107 ~ (505) 761-8904 (505) 761-8947 (FAX)

www.swstrategy.org

February 25, 2000

To: Regional Executives

From: Regional Executive Committee, Southwest Strategy

Through: Southwest Strategy Coordination Office

Subject: Long-Term Strategy for Streamlining Consultations Under the Endangered Species Act in Arizona and New Mexico

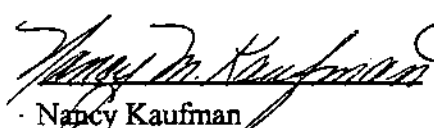
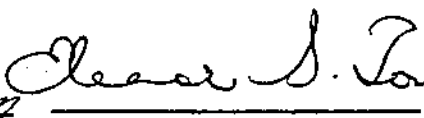
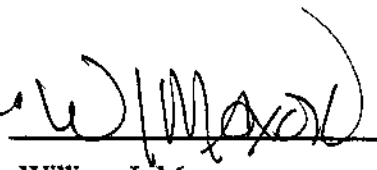
The Regional Executive Committee (REC), of the Southwest Strategy established the Section 7 Streamlining Work Group to develop a process for streamlining consultations in Arizona and New Mexico. The Section 7 Streamlining Work Group presented their results to the REC in September of 1999. The REC approved the attached document entitled *Long-term Strategy for Streamlining Consultations Under the Endangered Species Act in Arizona and New Mexico*, on November 16, 1999.

In conjunction with approving the streamlining strategy, the REC directed the Section 7 Work Group and the Tribal-Federal Work Group to jointly address agency requirements (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs, and appropriate action agencies) under the various Executive and Secretarial Orders dealing with trust responsibilities (e.g. Secretarial Order 3206). This effort should be closely coordinated with the Solicitor's Office, Office of General Council, and other appropriate legal counsel. Similar direction may be extended by the REC at a later date if the FWS and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deem this approach useful to augment their on-going collaborative efforts to resolve remaining concerns unique to EPA's mandates and processes.

It is expected that the streamlining strategy will be updated and improved as we learn from implementing the process and as the legal and social context changes. The document contains mechanisms to identify needed change and the REC will serve as the body to approve changes or additions.

Implementation of this streamlining strategy can begin with our individual commitment and actions to help our employees understand, embrace and actively implement this document. Our personal commitment to the effective implementation of this product will ensure that we attain benefits in the shortest time possible.

Sincerely,

		
Nancy Kaufman Co-Chairman, Southwest Strategy	Eleanor Towns Co-Chairman, Southwest Strategy	William J. Maxon Executive Director, Southwest Strategy

Attachment: *Long-term Strategy for Streamlining Consultations Under the Endangered Species Act in Arizona and New Mexico*

cc: Southwest Strategy Agency Coordinators
Southwest Strategy National Staff Group
Southwest Strategy Section 7 Streamlining Work Group